

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3294

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: KNESSET DEBATES GOI POLICY ON JORDANIAN-
PALESTINIAN ISSUE

LONDON FOR GLEYSTEN

REF: TEL AVIV 4109

1. SUMMARY. WITH DAYAN CALLING FOR VIRTUALLY UNRESTRICTED RIGHT OF JEWISH SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK AND LIKUD AND NRP KNESSET MEMBERS REITERATING THEIR OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT POLICY RE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN, JULY 23 KNESSET DEBATE POINTS UP PROBLEMS RABIN GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE AS IT PROCEEDS TOWARD PACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN. END SUMMARY.

2. KNESSET JULY 23 REFERRED TO ITS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE URGENT MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY FOUR KNESSET MEMBERS-
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MOSHE DAYAN (ALIGNMENT), SHMUEL TAMIR (LIKUD), YITZHAK RAPHAEL

(NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY) AND NISSIM ELIAD (INDEPENDENT LIBER PARTY) --THAT GOVERNMENT POLICY ADOPTED AT JULY 21 CABINET MEETING CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS (REFTEL) BE DEBATED BY THE KNESSET. NO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WAS INVOLVED, AND LABOR ALIGNMENT MOBILIZED ADEQUATE SUPPORT TO HAVE ALL MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.

3. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS MOTION, TAMIR FOCUSED MAINLY ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED EXISTENCE OF SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE, WHICH, HE CHARGED, WOULD INEVITABLY BE PRO-SOVIET OR PRO-CHINESE.

4. RAPHAEL RESTATED OPPOSITION OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY TO ANY TERRITORIAL CONCESSION TO JORDAN. HE PROPOSED HOLDING TALKS WITH JORDAN ONLY AFTER FURTHER AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED WITH EGYPT AND CALLED FOR MORE SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK.

5. ELIAD REJECTED SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE BUT SAID THAT PEACE AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN ALONE WOULD NOT SOLVE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HE URGED THAT ISRAEL RECOGNIZE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF JORDANIAN- PALESTINIAN FEDERATION.

6. HIGHLIGHT OF KNESSET DEBATE WAS SPEECH BY DAYAN. HE STRESSED THAT, IN TALKS WITH JORDAN, ISRAEL MUST ADHERE TO TWO PRINCIPLES: (A) RIGHT OF JEWS TO SETTLE PERMANENTLY ANYWHERE IN JUDEA OR SAMARIA PROVIDED THEY DO NOT DISPOSSESS ARABS, AND (B) RIGHT TO MAINTAIN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON WEST BANK TO ASSURE ISRAEL'S SECURITY. AT SAME TIME, DAYAN SAID THAT HE OPPOSED ANNEXATION OF WEST BANK. HE ASSERTED THAT ARAB STATES HAVE ADEQUATE AREA TO RESETTLE REFUGEES. ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, DAYAN SAID THAT JORDAN REPRESENTS INHABITANTS OF WEST BANK AND MAYBE GAZA BUT NOT THE REFUGEES. HE CHARGED THAT ARAB STATES ARE READY TO RENEW FIGHTING--BOTH MILITARILY AND POLITICALLY.

7. IN REPLYING TO DEBATE, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON BEGAN BY NOTING THAT SPEAKERS HAD NOT ADDRESSED THEMSELVES DIRECTLY TO GOI'S JULY 21 DECISION. HE SAID THERE WAS NOT CHANCE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PEACE AS LONG AS PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS NOT SOLVED. AS REGARDS JULY 21 CABINET DECISION, IT WAS NOT NEW BUT ONLY CLARIFIED ISRAEL'S POSITION. IT WOULD ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO TALKE POLITICAL INITIATIVES AND PREVENT CRITICISM THAT ISRAEL WAS IGNORING PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. ALLON STATED THAT DAYAN'S PROPOSAL CONCERNING JEWISH SETTLEMENT ENVISAGED JORDANIAN RULE OVER CONSIDERABLE PART OF ERETZ ISRAEL (THE LAND OF ISRAEL). (IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR JULY 24

BING REPORTED SEPTTEL, ALLON SAID THAT HE TOLD KNESSET THAT WHOEVER UNDERSTANDS DAYAN'S "ALGEBRA" REALIZES THAT DAYAN ALSO IS SPEAKING ABOUT A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE WITH JORDAN. HAVING MADE THIS POINT, ALLON SAID, RIGHTWINGERS SEEMED NOTABLY DISAPPOINTED.) ALLON REMINDED KNESSET THAT HE HIMSELF HAD ROLE IN ALL SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK AND IMPLIED THAT HE STILL ADHERED TO ALLON PLAN. (PM RABIN WAS REPORTED BY PRESS AS STATING DURING TOUR OF JORDAN VALLEY SETTLEMENTS JULY 23 THAT IN ANY AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN SUCH SETTLEMENTS WILL REMAIN AND CONTINUE UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL.)

8. IN PRESS REACTION TO DEBATE, HATZOFEH (NRP) STATED THAT DAYAN'S SPEECH SHOWED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO MAJORITY FOR WAIVING ISRAELI CONTROL OF WEST BANK. MAARIV (INDEPENDENT) NOTED THAT WHEN MATTER OF PRINCIPLE ARE INVOLVED, THE ALIGNMENT CANNOT COUNT ON A UNITED COALITION.

9. COMMENT. KNESSET DEBATE UNDERSCORES PROBLEMS RABIN GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO FACE AS IT BEGINS TO WORK TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN AND TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC POSITIONS. DAYAN'S INSISTENCE ON VIRTUALLY UNRESTRICTED JEWISH SETTLEMENT RIGHTS ON WEST BANK, WITH SOLE CAVEAT THAT ARABS NOT BE DISPOSSESSED, CERTAINLY GOES BEYOND MORE MODERATE POSITION OF RABIN AND ALLON TO MAINTAIN SETTLEMENTS BASED ON SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. WHILE DAYAN'S VIEWS ON TERRITORIES MAY HAVE ONLY LIMITED SUPPORT IN LABOR PARTY, ANY DISAFFECTION WOULD SERIOUSLY THREATEN VIABILITY OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT, WITH ITS ONE VOTE MAJORITY IN KNESSET. SHOULD RIFT IN LABOR PARTY DEVELOP BECAUSE OF PRESSURES TO BEGIN EARLY NEGOTIATIONS WITH JOORDAN, RABIN MAY BE COMPELLED TO CALL ELECTIONS EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. RESOLUTION OF JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN ISSUES PLACE HEAVY BURDEN ON ISRAELI POLITICAL STABILITY, WITH JULY 23 KNESSET DEBATE PERHAPS FIRST
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ROUND OF COMING INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

9. DEBATE ALSO DEMONSTRATES, JUST IN CASE THERE WAS ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT, THAT DAYAN BY NO MEANS HAS RETIRED FROM POLITICAL SCENE. WE CAN EXPECT HIM TO REMAIN TOUGH, UNPREDICTABLE AND A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF TROUBLE FOR RABIN'S FLEDGLING GOVERNMENT DUE IN PART TO HIS CONTINUED POPULARITY WITH LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE PEOPLE.
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